



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Eight New Farmers' Markets Debut This Season

Hartford, CT—What do actor/philanthropist Paul Newman, acclaimed chef/healthy food advocate Michel Nischan, Bridgeport's Aspira Community Center, and the First Congregation Church of Burlington have in common? They are all involved in the start-up of new farmers' markets in Connecticut this season.

Connecticut's farmers' markets have enjoyed a resurgence in popularity since the 1980s, averaging about five new markets each year. This year, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture welcomes eight new markets, bringing the total number across the state to 82.

Included in this season's new markets is one sure to receive a great deal of publicity: the Westport Farmers' Market, brainchild of Paul Newman and Michel Nischan, to be held at the Westport Country Playhouse and slated to open June 29, 2006.

The Westport Farmers' Market will host 14 vendors and feature Connecticut Grown products including fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, honey, raw milk, goat cheeses, beef, lamb, and baked goods. The market is part of a larger community-oriented initiative by the two gentlemen, who also plan to open a restaurant next door to the playhouse, as well as sponsor food-related events at and around the site. Profits will benefit the playhouse.

The Chamard Market in Clinton, scheduled to open July 2, 2006, will offer products similar to those at the Westport market, with the unique addition of Chamard Vineyard's fine wines, made exclusively from Connecticut Grown grapes. This market will be a regular anchor of weekend events planned by the vineyard, which include live music and winery tours.

Other new markets that have or will open this season include the Bridgeport Farmers' Market III, the Burlington Farmers' Market, the Denison Farmers' Market in Stonington, the Milford Farmers' Market at Walnut Beach, the Norwich Downtown Farmers' Market, and the Scotland Farmer's Market.

All of the new markets will offer an exciting diversity of Connecticut Grown products, including an abundance of varieties and items that cannot be found in supermarkets or standard retail outlets. In addition to unmatched selection, the freshness and flavor of farmers' market goods is next to none.

A complete listing of all 82 farmers' markets, including days and hours of operation, is available on the Department of Agriculture's website (<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1368&q=259134>).

If you would like to receive a copy of the listing in brochure format, please send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope with 39 cents postage to **The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farmers' Market Brochure, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.**

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